

SENATE BILL 2137

By Finney L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39  
and Title 40, relative to killing of a police animal.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-205, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1)

(A) It is an offense to knowingly and unlawfully kill the animal of another without the owner's effective consent.

(B) Except as provided in § 39-17-3\_\_\_, a violation of subdivision (a)(1)(A) is theft of property, graded according to the value of the animal, and punished in accordance with § 39-14-105.

(2) In determining the value of a fire dog, search and rescue dog, service animal or police horse under § 39-14-105, the court shall consider the value of the fire dog, search and rescue dog, service animal or police horse as both the cost of the animal and any specialized training the animal received.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-205, is further amended by deleting the last sentence of subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

In that case § 39-17-3\_\_\_ shall apply to the person.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 3, is amended by adding the following new, appropriately designated section:

§ 39-17-3\_\_\_.

(a) It is an offense to knowingly and unlawfully kill a police dog that is acting in its official capacity.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class D felony.

(c) As used in this section, "police dog" means a dog that is used by a law enforcement agency in the exercise of its authority, specifically trained for law enforcement work and under the control of a law enforcement officer.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to acts committed on or after such date.